

## **MINUTES**

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF WARR ACRES  
MONDAY  
APRIL 26, 2004  
7:00 P.M.**

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Declaration of a quorum present was given.

### **ROLL CALL**

#### **PRESENT**

Mayor Marietta Tardibono  
Councilman Justin Frisbie  
Councilwoman Leslie Owens  
Councilman Jimmy Alexander  
Councilman Mike Gossman  
Councilman Bob Wehba  
Councilman Barry Curl  
Vice-Mayor Tom Smith  
Councilwoman Nancy Olson

#### **ABSENT**

### **DEPARTMENT HEADS AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT**

Pamela McDowell-Ramirez, City Clerk  
Roger Patty, Police Chief  
Rob Carter, Acting Fire Chief  
Bob Jernigan, City Attorney

2. Presentation and discussion by Mike Crawford on matters of the City's financial situation.

Mike Crawford explained that the city has all of its money in a pooled account. All funds have a share of this pool whether they are restricted or non-restricted funds. The one exception to this is the Treasury Strip. He explained it was important to see how the \$2.9 million breaks down. He explained where it was at June 30, 2003 and where it is as of April 21, 2004. Of that \$2.9 million, \$681,000 is dedicated to the MacArthur Project. One of the things that is going to happen accounting wise it to separate this into a separate fund, take it out of the General Fund. It has in the past been considered a department within the General fund and is to confusing, so it is better to take it out. He then proceeded by pulling out \$689,000 which he says is related to the Economic Development Authority. Public Works Authority accounts for \$400,000 and that varies depending on

whether the payment has been made to Bethany/Warr Acres. The Capital Building fund has \$234,000, the Capital Replacement fund has \$48,000 of that and Special Revenue and Fiduciary funds are another \$164,000. Which leaves at June 30, 2003 available \$157,000, however, as of April 21, 2004 that was up to \$601,000. He explained that the \$157,000 was what was available for carry over at year end and that is extremely low, a city this size should have at least a 10% to 20% reserve. He stated that the city really needed to use the estimated figures for revenue not 90% of the estimated revenue. He understood that the city wanted to be conservative but it caused the figures to look greatly inflated. Councilman Frisbie asked to have a report each month that is broke down like the report Mr. Crawford was showing. Mr. Crawford stated that the revenue estimates were extremely low and the city has done a great job of keeping expenditures down. That is what has lead to the increase in available cash. He pointed out again that the \$601,000 is money that is not restricted or set aside for any thing as of April 21, 2004. He stated that the Council needs to stop thinking of what is in the bank and in cd's. They need to look at what is available, by taking out the money that is restricted. These restrictions are administrative or accounting restrictions. He said by looking at the money on this level it will be less confusing. He recommended going back after the year is over and look and see if what you thought you were going to carry over is what you actually did because you are just making an educated guess at what you think the carry over will be.

3. Discussion on a possible city operated ambulance service.

John Webster stated that the idea sounds good but if the economy goes down what would happen then. Councilwoman Owens stated that there is no proposal just discussion so that residents can provide input at the Town Hall meeting. Steven Williamson from EMSA asked if he could speak. He wanted to inform the council of some information that Chief Carter might not be aware of. He stated that 28 ambulance services had gone out of business recently due to medi-care decline. EMSA basis their subsidy to cities based on per capita figures not on usage. Councilman Wehba asked him about the rumor that EMSA was facing a projected \$600,000 loss this year. Mr. Williamson stated that they are really looking at a \$2.2 million loss. When asked how they could continue to operate that way he stated that they budget off a zero based budget and they make it up by city subsidies. Bob Jernigan asked Mr. Williams him about how EMSA was being affected by the medi-care reduction. He stated that expenses stay the same but reimbursement from medi-care is less and less. The State of Oklahoma is the worst for non-insured and second worst for under insured. Mr. Jernigan stated that as reimbursement drops the subsidies rise. Mr. Jernigan asked if Mr. Williamson agreed that a service operated by taxes had a better chance for success. He stated that it did and in fact EMSA is a Trust Authority with Tulsa and Oklahoma City being the beneficiaries. Mike Crawford stated that he knew there was now a 3 mil levy that can be placed on property taxes to assist in paying for ambulance service. Mr. Williamson stated that 3 mil will not begin to pay for the service. Mr. Jernigan asked Mr. Williamson if he would agree that a Public

Safety Tax would be the way of the future, and better on city basis then on county basis. Mr. Williamson agreed it would. He said that he would challenge anyone to find a better bargain. He stated the city needed to take a look at the five year cost picture. Tommy Pike stated that this years subsidy is \$60,000 and next maybe \$100,000, but for what it would cost to start up a service, the city could pay for 20 years of service with EMSA. Chief Carter stated that it is a conceptual idea and that Mr. Williamson is correct in many things he said. He continued by saying that 94% of the tax generated would come from non-residents. He also stated that a proposed 1¢ sales tax would be a dedicated tax for Police, Fire and Ambulance services. The cost of a membership to EMSA is \$60 and he proposes to provide the service free of charge to the residents. Since this tax would be dedicated to the Police, Fire and Ambulance services less of the General Fund monies would be needed for these services and would then be available for other city uses. He agreed that the property tax mentioned by Mike Crawford would not pay for the service and stated that with it being funded by sales tax the service would be being paid for by non-residents. He did state that there is no way that this service would be a money making service but then again neither is the Fire department. Tommy Pike stood up and said that the only thing that keeps Warr Acres running is the 6.5% sale tax rate. The Mayor stated that there was no need to get in a rush in making a decision, the city is covered by EMSA for now and will continue to be. She invited everyone to attend the Town Hall meeting that will be held on Monday, May 3, 2004 at the Community Center at 7:00 p.m.

4. Discussion and possible action on lifting the wage freeze to allow for merits to be given to non-contract employees whose supervisors have determined that their performance reflects a satisfactory evaluation allowing for such raises during the 03-04 Fiscal Year and possible bonuses for those individuals that have obtained a satisfactory evaluation but are topped out in their pay scale. \*Mayor\*

This item was heard before item 3.

Councilman Frisbie made a motion to continue the item to the first regular meeting after the budget meeting. Councilman Smith asked if he could ask a question before a vote was taken and asked if the merit increases would bring the non-contract employees up to what the Union employees have. Councilman Gossman stated that he thought what Councilman Smith was really asking was if this is merit was the same as what the Unions are getting when it is a merit raise. He wanted to make sure that this would make it fair for all non-union employees and makes it closer to what the Unions keep getting every year. Councilman Frisbie stated that he thought it would be better to wait and see what the budget looked like before making the decision. Councilman Frisbie stated that he was not saying that they should not get a raise he just thought they needed more information and should see what next years figures looked like. He also asked if it was giving 100% of the people raises, did no one have a bad evaluation. The Clerk stated no and that is why the item was worded the way it was on the agenda, provided they meet the requirements for an increase, because if someone were to

get a bad evaluation then they would not qualify for an increase. Also, there are 43 non-contract employees, of which nine employees anniversary dates will not come up until next fiscal year. So there are nine people who are not even considered for an increase for this fiscal year. Until they have been here for a full year they are not considered for an increase. It was asked if these increases had been frozen for the past two years and the clerk stated that they were froze last fiscal year but the night before the newly elected council took office the old council lifted the freeze and granted the merits for the 02-03 fiscal year.

Motion by Frisbie, second by Curl to continue this item to the next regular meeting following the budget meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Poll vote: Alexander, nay; Owens, nay; Gossman, nay; Wehba, yea; Frisbie, yea; Curl, yea; Smith, nay; Olson, nay; and Tardibono, nay.

**Motion Failed.**

The Mayor told the council that she had another option if they would be interested. It was to grant instead of the merits and a \$1000 bonus across the board and for the topped out employees. Councilman Alexander said that would be a one time cost and would not continue it into next year. The Clerk stated that this would include everyone that was eligible through June 30. Some employee will reach their anniversary date this month some in May and some in June. The Mayor asked Mike Crawford if he thought the budget would allow for the increases. He stated that this late in the year the bonus was a better idea and to budget for the merits in the next fiscal year budget. He stated that the city was ahead of projections with two months left and should barring a major disaster well exceed estimates. Councilwoman Owens asked what the average raise would be. The Clerk stated that the average would be around \$1000 a few were higher but most were around \$987. Councilwoman Owens then stated that the one time bonus would satisfy 03-04 years raises, and then they could work on merits for next year.

Motion by Gossman, second by Alexander to approve a one time \$1000 bonus for all eligible non-contract employees and topped out employees. Before the vote was taken the question was raised by Councilwoman Owens that what they would be voting on was 27 eligible employees and 7 topped out employees for a total of \$34,000 and to pick up on the merits in the next fiscal year. There were several conversations taking place and it was mentioned that it was for non-contract, one year, all employees across the board. Poll vote: Alexander, yea; Owens, yea; Gossman, yea; Wehba, yea; Frisbie, yea; Curl, yea; Smith, yea; Olson, yea; and Tardibono, yea.

**Motion Passed unanimously.**

5. Adjournment.

Motion by Owens, second by Smith to adjourn. Poll vote: Alexander, yea; Owens, yea; Gossman, yea; Wehba, yea; Frisbie, yea; Curl, nay; Smith, yea; Olson, yea; and Tardibono, yea.

**Motion Passed.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela McDowell-Ramirez  
City Clerk